

STUDIES FOR TERRESTRIAL FAUNA

Current status: Studies commencing October 2018

Consultant engaged: Biota Environmental Sciences

The Cape Range area is highly valued for its ecological value on land as well as at sea. Land based animals include hundreds of mammals, reptiles and at least 28 identified bird species which are protected under Federal legislation. New activity on or near the habitats for these creatures requires a detailed fauna assessment.

What we are doing

The terrestrial fauna study will include a detailed desktop study to inform the need for targeted surveys for significant species. The study team will then undertake the following activities:

1. Conduct new targeted surveys of all habitats within the study areas. Species to be surveyed will include land-based vertebrates, avifauna, mangrove vertebrates, short range endemic fauna and claypan associated invertebrate species.
2. Conduct new surveys for significant migratory and marine birds and their habitats.
3. Surveys will include areas of direct and indirect impact from the project activities.
4. Identify the likelihood of conservation significant species occurring within the project area (as determined by the Commonwealth EPBC Act and State Legislation).
5. Assess the potential impact of vegetation clearing and other causes of habitat loss on land-based-animals.
6. Assess the potential impact of claypan excavation on short-range endemic species.
7. Assess the potential for entrapment and collision with animals related to trenches, borrow pits, fences and vehicle movements.
8. Assess the potential for behavioural changes and altered predator/prey relationships associated with the supply of water and food waste, the potential for increased feral access and light emissions.
9. Assess the potential for exposure to toxins or contamination.
10. Determine the direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of the proposal to land-based animals and birds and the significance of these impacts in a local and regional context.

How we will use the information

The results of the terrestrial fauna study will be used to recommend proposed monitoring, management and mitigation measures for construction, operations and closure including:

- An assessment of the effectiveness of mitigation and management strategies.
- Adaptive management responses will be planned to understand the residual impacts on conservation significant species.
- Response plans will outline processes for unplanned events such as collisions.

The Ashburton Salt Project has the flexibility to avoid and minimise environmental impacts by changing the Project design as environmental studies are completed. Clearing has been minimised across the project and migratory bird foraging and roosting sites will be identified before disturbance takes place and avoided during project implementation. Management measures will be in place for vehicles to avoid collisions with animals and manage noise, lighting and food waste to minimise negative effects.

Related information

Fact Sheet #5 Terrestrial Flora and Fauna

Date of fact sheet review

September 2018

FOR MORE INFORMATION: